

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 161325Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7862
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 4609

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: HIGH ELECTION BOARD CONSIDERING ELECTION CHALLENGES

REF: ANKARA 4587 (DTG 151445Z JUN 77)

1. ACCORDING TO MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET REPORT
JUNE 16, HIGH ELECTION BOARD, WHICH CERTIFIED JUNE 5
ELECTION RESULTS ONE WEEK AGO, IS CURRENTLY SUPERVISING A
RECOUNT OF BALLOTS IN 14 PROVINCES AND INVESTIGATING CHARGES
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THAT DUPLICATE BALLOTS WERE CAST IN SOME AREAS. (COMMENT:
IN THE PAST, VOTE RECOUNTS HAVE RESULTED IN MINOR
ALTERATIONS IN ELECTION RESULTS, BUT THERE IS NO PRESENT
BASIS FOR BELIEVING THAT THESE ELECTION CHALLENGES -- MADE
BY THE FOUR LARGEST PARTIES -- WILL PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES IN PARLIAMENTARY ARITHMETIC.)

2. ALTHOUGH ALL FOUR MAJOR PARTIES HAVE CHALLENGED ELECTIONS IN SOME DISTRICTS, THE MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITIC HAS BEEN NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN. THREE DAYS AFTER THE ELECTIONS, HE LODGED HIS FIRST PUBLIC COMPLAINT THAT PARTIES OPPOSING THE NSP HAD CAST 2.5 MILLION DUPLICATE BALLOTS. HE BASED HIS CLAIM ON THE ALLEGED FACT THAT WHILE THE HIGH ELECTION BOARD CERTIFIED MORE THAN 21 MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS, ACCORDING TO 1975 TURKISH CENSUS FIGURES, THERE SHOULD ONLY BE ABOUT 18.25 MILLION TURKS 21 YEARS OR OLDER. IN SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS TO THE PRESS, ERBAKAN HAS ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF IRREGULARITIES IN CERTIFYING VOTERS AND THE HIGH NUMBER OF ALLEGED DUPLICATE BALLOTS, THE ELECTION RESULTS SHOULD BE VOIDED AND NEW ELECTIONS CALLED.

3. COMMENT: WHILE NO ONE SEEMS TO BE TAKING THE BLUSTERING ERBAKAN'S CALL FOR A NEW ELECTION SERIOUSLY, HE CONTINUES TO GAIN PRESS ATTENTION WITH HIS STATEMENTS. MOREOVER, HIS COMPLAINTS HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHY THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS INCREASED FROM 17 TO 21 MILLION IN JUST FOUR YEARS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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